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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hino et al.

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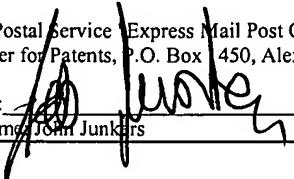
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By: 
Name: John Junkers

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application filed herewith, please enter the following preliminary amendment:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.